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THE

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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Convention Highlights

Israel's Museums

New 500-Pound Israel Banknote

Secondary Use of Coins

Largest Israel Coin-Medal Display

N.Y. Mayor Proclaims AINA WEEK

Intellectuals on Medals

Club News and Columns



*Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION*



# OUR ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 499, FRESH MEADOWS STATION, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11365

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

*The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of the numismatic aspects of Israel's coinage, past and present. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.*

*As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meetings and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related backgrounds to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association. Membership on the Board of Directors is by vote of the membership and candidates for the Board are limited to individuals whose primary vocation is not numismatic-related business.*

*The Association is the publisher of The Shekel, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.*

*The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour to Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$8.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$125.00 per year.*

*Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.*

## THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK . . .

*With the 10th Anniversary issue of The Shekel behind us, we wish to take this special opportunity to thank those members and friends of AINA whose month-in, month-out contributions of articles, photographs and related data make this journal possible. You only have to ask the Editor of any club publication how difficult it is to get articles prepared by experts and leaders even on an occasional basis. Yet imagine: the popular Aleph Beth columnist Ed Janis has NEVER missed a deadline. Our dependable West Coast contributor Mel Wacks undertook the awesome task of readying the comprehensive ten-year look at AINA through the pages of "The Shekel." To the Hendins, Federbushs, Frankls, Semmelmans, and all others . . . you're the greatest. — G.G.*

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*ARIE KINDLER, *Numismatic Consultant*YA'AKOV MESHORER, *Numismatic Consultant*SYLVIA HAFFNER, *Associate Editor**Editorial Board*

MORRIS BRAM

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# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



I really have to thank YOU and YOU and YOU. You made it all possible.

I had hoped to be re-elected to the Board of Directors when the elections were announced earlier this year. I hoped that what AINA has done and what we have all done together might even mean that you would wish to re-elect Morris Bram in the field of nine candidates.

Because many of you voted only for me, I received more votes than any other candidates and nearly double that of the average re-elected AINA officer. For that I thank you.

I am proud of the team on the Board of Directors and I am also saddened that the fine show of support of candidates who did not become among the top five meant that we have the loss of their wisdom and experience on our Board. Let me tell you at the same time how proud I am of the Board which made its first meeting's business consideration of a plan which will make it possible for the regional candidates of the future to win a full director's seat on this Board. We are looking into the legality of this change in our By-Laws right now.

I had planned many months ago to announce that I was not a candidate for re-election as your president. That election under our charter is by the members of the Board. Their unanimous vote, on top of your expressed will in the elections has convinced me to continue on as your president. And for that again, I thank you.

We have just come through a tremendous series of AINA successes: a giant *Ninth Study Tour*, a major success in the *Fifth Annual Convention* which the editors of the numismatic press have privately told me is the most dynamic of the conventions they have seen in an otherwise uninspired year; and now . . .

new programs, new ventures, new clubs, new growth.

Your Board and I have decided to take a quantum leap forward for AINA. We are going to think even bigger. But to do that, we'll be needing your help.

We have in mind a program of national insurance to protect your collection. But we'll need a wider membership base to assure the insurance companies that there is a business with potential for them at AINA.

We have in mind a program to assist the families of numismatists who have the problem of estates, valuation, disposal of rare and worthwhile numismatic items or entire collections. Your Board is very aware of two instances in the New York area where widows and families were not protected from sharks and unscrupulous buyers. But that will also need your possible assistance.

We have in mind a further expansion of our educational materials: books, audio-visual programs and the like. But we won't make the investment of your assets if we do not have an assurance of your interest and participation in the meetings or offerings.

We have a simple idea that will DOUBLE our impact on America on behalf of American Israel numismatics. I'm asking you to bring one new member to your next meeting or to your home to join AINA.

During 1977, I want to double AINA, and then redouble AINA. Clubs will be hearing about ways AINA will help them. But it really all starts with you. Who will you bring into AINA this week?

Shalom,

Morris Bram  
President



## New Israel 500 Pound Note Honors David Ben-Gurion

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

The long awaited IL.500 note was placed into circulation on 26 May 1977.

The new note shows on the obverse the portrait of David Ben Gurion (1886–1973), Statesman and Prime Minister of Israel. In the background is the library at Sde Boker, Ben Gurion's home during his last years. The reverse of the note shows the Golden Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The head on the obverse is in slate-grey and the background in purple-brown. The reverse is in sepia. The paper on both sides is ivory coloured. The watermark of the note at the *left* side of the obverse shows the head of Ben Gurion in the reverse sense.

The obverse bears at top right the numerals 500 in slate-grey, and at left in light brown. In centre is the Hebrew inscription: *Hamesh Meot Lirot Israelyot* (Five hundred Israel Pounds). Below in Hebrew: 'Bank Israel', and the date 5735 – 1975. At bottom left are the signatures; at right, Moshe Sanbar, Director of the Bank, and at left David Horovitz, Chairman of the Advisory Council.

For the identification of the note by the blind, the left bottom corner bears a ribbed horizontal bar, instead of the disks of the lower denominations.

The reverse shows numerals 500 similar to the obverse, and in addition, Arabic numerals in the right bottom corner. At top appears *Bank Israel* in Hebrew, at left in Arabic, and below in English. There are serial numbers composed of ten digits at top left and bottom right. The reverse bears the bar code at top right and at bottom left. The size of the note is 153 x 76 mm.

This is the fourth note in the new series. The others being the IL.5 note (*Henrietta Szold*); the IL.10 note (*Sir Moses Montefiori*) and the IL.100 note (*Theodor Herzl*).

ס. 500  
ראשון  
בנק  
ישראל  
המועצת המיעוטית  
ראשון  
בנק  
ישראל



Braille identification for the blind.

## “BEST OF SHOW” WON BY FIRST-TIME-EVER EXHIBITOR FROM NEW JERSEY

A numismatist who had never before entered an exhibit in a competition won the *Best of Show Award* in a startling demonstration of the power of concentration, winning his award over a group of exhibits judged by experienced numismatists as possibly the finest collection of entries in their history.

Manfred Anson, a member of the INS of Northern New Jersey entered an eight-case display on the life of Dr. Theodore Herzl, with five of the eight cases entered in the competition. His collection of medals, numismatic ephemera, related photographs, books, sculpted portraits, autographs and similar documentation of the life and contributions of the man known as “the founder of modern Zionism” has all of the classic elements of dedicated collecting at its finest.

Mr. Anson was present at the Awards Banquet at the Greater New York Coin Convention held at the New York Sheraton on the evening of April 30, 1977 to receive his award to a thunderous ovation.

Awards were made in seven of the eight original categories with an expanded jury of judges called in by the Exhibits Committee to assist in final awards presentation, announced Nat Sobel, chairman of the Exhibits Committee. Chief Judge was Harry Flower, Chicago.

The Audio/Visual Library of AINA, announced Stanley Yulish of Cleveland, Ohio will make efforts to create a minimum of three slide lectures from the material presented in the 100 cases on display.



Nat Sobel, Exhibits Chairman (left) and Best-of-Show Winner Manfred Anson.

Among highlights of the competition was the high ranking of Stanley Yulish of Cleveland, Ohio, former two-time *Best of Show* winner who once again scored high with a *First Prize* in the category which held the *Best of Show* entry. Another surprise element was the winning of two prizes in a single family, the mother/son team of Donna and Michael Sims of the I.N.S. of San Gabriel Valley, California. This two-in-one-family is the first time in the five conventions of A.I.N.A. that a single family has been so honored.

The judging met with broad approval of the numismatists present and the extreme high quality and special effort which had been demonstrated by entrants made judging a difficult undertaking for all concerned, stated Mr. Sobel.



The final Awards Roster was presented as follows:

**Best of Show: Life and Times of Dr. Theodore Herzl**

*Manfred Anson, New Jersey. Photo on Page 4.*

**Category No. I: U.S. Coins**

*First Prize Photo No. 5 Emil Voigt*

**Category No. II: State of Israel (1948 – On)**

*First Prize Photo No. 6 Isidore Baum*

*Second Prize Photo No. 2 Donna Sims*

**Category No. III: Coins of the Holyland (to 1500)**

*First Prize Dr. Edwin Mendelssohn*

**Category No. IV: (eliminated)**

**Category No. V: Numismatica Judaica**

*First Prize Photo No. 4 Stanley Yulish  
Second Prize Morton Zerder*

**Category No. VI: Club Exhibits Photos No. 1 & 3**

*First Prize I.N.S. of Long Island (N.Y.)  
Second Prize W.I.N.S. (Westchester, N.Y.)*

**Category No. VII: Young Numismatists**

*First Prize Photo No. 7 Evan Bloom  
Second Prize Michael Sims*

**Category No. VIII: Miscellaneous**

*First Prize Irwin Stoff  
Second Prize Paul Bosco*

## SPECIAL SPEAKERS AND AWARDS ADDED TO BANQUET EXCITEMENT



AINA honored E. Janis, N. Sobel and Ed Schuman with special tribute at AINA Forest in Jerusalem, March 1977. Plaques commemorating the event are awarded by Bram at banquet.



George Gilbert, Editor of *The Shekel* was awarded a plaque for contributions to AINA GROWTH by Morris Bram in a surprise presentation at banquet.



Fred Roganson chaired the special AINA Tour Reunion during the Saturday afternoon of the 4-day GNYCC.



Dr. B. Kanael, eminent numismatic historian, was speaker at special meeting of collectors of ancient coins. He reported on Emporer Hadrian and the meeting with Jews in Jerusalem in 132 C.E.



Special Youth Day events included talks, exhibits and luncheon plus display awards. Chairperson was Florence Schook.



Florence Schook honored for contribution to convention success with her dedication to Youth Work. Attendees for the event have grown tenfold in five years, she reported.



*Sidney L. Olson was chairman of the Banquet Ceremonies. He is president of the INS of Greater Miami.*

*Special surprise gift from the Board of Directors to Morris Bram was a specially tooled Israel Victory Medal with a Western Wall stone insert and a message thanking Bram for his 10 years of leadership.*



*Y. Avni brought greetings from Israel to the GNYCC. Following the convention, Avni and Bram toured numerous INS clubs to report on numismatic developments in Israel.*



*Mr. M. Zvi, numismatic editor of Ha'aretz, a leading Israel newspaper, reported on economic growth of the State of Israel. Later he visited with metro N.Y. area clubs.*

## FINAL MINTAGES ANNOUNCED FOR 29th ANNIVERSARY COINS AND GOLD ENTEBBE MEDALS

"Final mintage figures for Israel's 29th Anniversary Commemorative Coin are 37,00 for the B.U. and 27,000 for the Proof varieties," announced Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in early June.

"Adjustments may increase each variety by a few hundred; however, the above round figures are final," added Mr. Avni. The 29th Anniversary Coin commemorating "Brotherhood in Jerusalem, Capital of Israel" was offered with a limit of one coin of each variety. authorized coin dealers were offered unlimited quantities. Subscribers and coin dealers will be receiving their coins during June and July.

### 11,000 OPERATION JONATHAN IN GOLD

"11,000 Gold State Medals of Israel, commemorating Operation Jonathan were sold worldwide," announced Mr. Yitzhak Avni.

The medal was offered with a March 1st, 1977, cutoff date for placing orders. While sale of the silver and bronze varieties is still open, it may be terminated without advance notice.

The gold medal has a 35mm diameter, weighs 30 grms and was priced at \$350.00. The silver 59mm medal, weight 115 grms is priced at \$49.00. The 59mm bronze medal, weight 98 grms is priced at \$7.50. (Shipping charges are included).



Reelected to Board: Bram, Weinschel, Janis, Sobel and Yulish.



1977 Officers: Bram, Janis, Schuman and Gilbert.

## BRAM RE-ELECTED TO PRESIDENCY IN NATIONAL POLL OF MEMBERS

Following report to the Board of Directors by the Election Committee of the reelection of all incumbents who ran for office, the Board of Directors at its annual meeting at the AINA Convention recently concluded in New York held its own election for the Association's officers:

The following were elected:

President	
<b>Morris Bram</b>	
Executive Vice-President	<b>Ed Schuman</b>
Treasurer	<i>Secretary</i>
<b>Ed Janis</b>	<b>George Gilbert</b>

West Coast, Donna Sims and Milton Fishgold, ran strongly but could not close the 100 to 200 vote lead necessary to become one of the top five (and therefore successful) contestants. Fred Roganson, of Connecticut and Irwin Stoff of New York were other contenders.

The election tabulation was under the direction of an Election Committee chaired by *Shekel* editor, George Gilbert and including David Hedin and Jules Lambek who certified results. Of the thousands of total votes cast, with each voter entitled to cast votes for *five or less* candidates, a large number of electors voted for only one, two or three favorites. Six ballots were disqualified for illegibility, incorrect voting and other irregularities. The spread of votes, with Morris Bram, far and ahead as the most popular candidate, was such that the addition of all disqualified votes could not alter the election results even if cast for the same candidate(s).

### Regional Election Plan

Amendment of the By-Laws of the Association has been reviewed with the Office of the Attorney General of New York State where the Association is incorporated to seek approval for election modifications. These are aimed at making it possible for the various districts of the country to be assured of

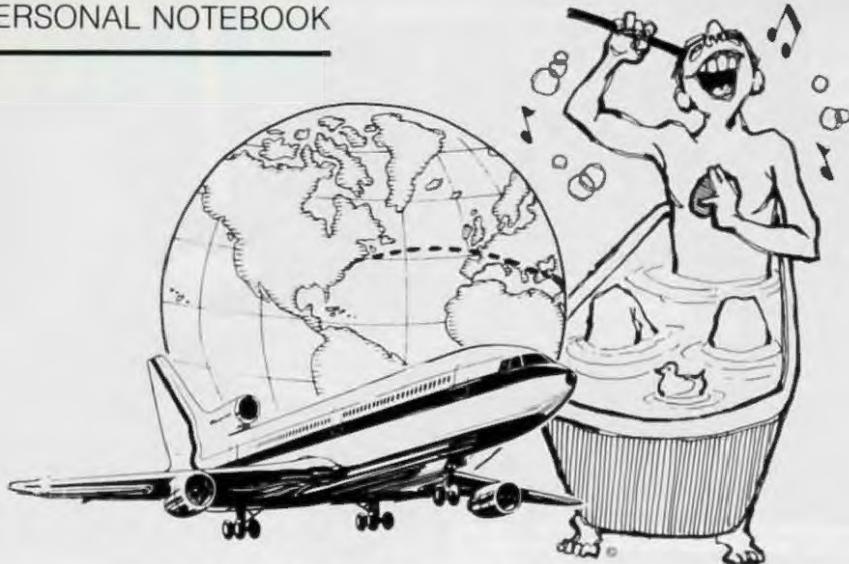
*Continued on page 31*

### INCUMBENTS REELECTED IN NATIONAL SPRING POLL

#### Election Procedures to be Modified, Announces Board of Directors

Following the procedures outlined in the existing By-Laws of A.I.N.A., the annual election of one third of all members of the Board of Directors was conducted this Spring by a mail poll of registered members of the Association.

In a field of nine candidates, incumbents Morris Bram, Ed Janis, Nat Sobel, Stanley Yulish and Moe Weinschel each won reelection to a three year term. Candidates from the



## MY NINTH STUDY TOUR

by Andrew Rosenblum

It took us awhile to feel we were in Israel. We had left Monday night but did not arrive in Tel Aviv and at our hotel until Tuesday evening. Now, obviously, we didn't spend 24 hours travelling; it was the seven hour difference between New York and Israel that extended our time.

The flight itself is an unusual experience. Here we are, high above the Atlantic on a 747. *What country is this?* The plane is El Al; *maybe legally we're in Israel.* But what country is the plane in? We're in a borderline region, an international zone. There's no ownership here. We're just passing through. One can consider the whole world is this. Borders are only borders only because we call them so. It's an interesting thought considering that we're approaching what is possibly the most hotly contested region on earth.

Once we land at Ben Gurion Airport we quickly go through Customs. Then we suffer the arduous task of picking our luggage, a common experience of air travellers. Crushed against the conveyor belt, we patiently wait for our bags to appear. Here we are struck with the first miracle in this Land of Promise: everyone's luggage is the last to appear.

Even in the airport we're not quite sure whether we're grounded in Israel. We AINA Americans huddle together. English, suddenly heavily accented with Yiddish phrases, is the language we most often hear. The bustle of tourists, the signs in multiple languages, the airport personnel efficiently guiding us, bespeak little that we are in Israel.

Soon we meet Tzion Mizrachi, our Guide for the trip. Tzion is a Sabra (native born) and a man of wit and intelligence. He speaks English very well but not without an Israeli flavor. Just listening to this man gives us our first impression of Israel, and throughout our journey, when he acts as a guide, advisor, den-mother, mediator, translator and especially teacher, he will highlight and expand our sense of Israel. *He does for Israel what good lighting does for a coin or medal.*

On arriving at the Dan Hotel, we are given a few minutes to prepare for dinner. Though we had had *four* meals on the plane, this is our first *big* one since we left New York. Actually, we were to learn a large dinner is not typically Israeli. An Israeli's *main* meal is *lunch*; the evening meal is usually light. This is



Bram addresses Tour Group on first morning.

probably due to their work schedule as stores open in the morning, close for four hours at mid-day, and then re-open for a few hours in the evening.

After our early evening dinner, only the staunchest brave exhaustion and jet-lag to walk along Ben Yehuda and Dizengoff Streets. By this time Ben Yehuda, with its shops, is closed. Dizengoff, with its many cafes, we find is the center of Tel-Aviv night life. Though Israelis are early risers, it's unlikely they'll get to bed before twelve and they are not ones to stay home in their apartments.

\* \* \*

*Morning: we're off on tour.* We drive through Tel-Aviv, Israel's most populated city. This city is young; founded in 1910. It's already congested. On all sides it is surrounded by suburbs or the sea. It can only build up. And that's exactly what it's doing. Apartment houses six stories high are everywhere.

When in Israel you are struck with a new impression of space. Distance becomes more than just a number. We learn that before the June 1967 war, Tel-Aviv was only 15 miles from the Jordanian border. The nucleus of Israel's population was in a bottle-neck. One firm thrust from the enemy and the country would break. Tzion, our guide, aptly expressed this as a "Paradise of Fools".

On this first day we visit a great deal of Israel: the Carmel Wine Cellars; the Weizmann Institute; Jaffa and the Kadman Museum. We drink wine and we argue (always at a disadvantage) with the Moroccan Jews in the Souks of Jaffa. Those convinced of a bargain came away with scarabs, bronze burial pieces, and ancient coins.

At the Kadman Museum we meet Director Arie Kindler, author of *Coins of the Land of Israel*. This museum is the only museum in Israel solely devoted to Numismatics. Before his lecture, Arie Kindler received many gifts. INS Clubs donate medals, Arnold Jeffcoat, Editor of *Numismatic News* hands over the *Catalogue of World Coins*, (numismatically known as the "telephone book") and a choice bottle of Scotch in mint condition. Morris Bram donated to the INS of Israel AINA's gift of \$1,000. After this we could be assured that Dr. Kindler and his staff would enjoy the Scotch.

After our long day and a sumptuous dinner at the Dan, we hear our guest speaker of the evening, Major Ephram Sneh of the Israel Defence Forces. Major Sneh is a physician who was at Entebbe. He talks about how startled he was when he learned about the Mission. There was a big risk and there was little time. He made preparations for many casualties. There were fewer than expected. But

these few were too many. The Major felt the three dead on the plane were quintessential Israelis: the only son of Moroccan immigrants; a woman who was one of the first Jewish Activists in the Soviet Union; and Jonathan Netanyahu, who gave up his studies at Harvard to serve in the I.D.F. He was one of Israel's youngest high-ranking officers, leader of the Rescue Team and the only fatality among them.

*Thursday:* our 2nd Day is spent in the Plain of Sharon. When the Pioneer Zionists first arrived here, this area was a swamp, infected with malaria-carrying mosquitos. Canals which carried water from the Plain to the sea were choked with sand. This stagnating water became a swamp. The canals were dredged and the swamp was drained. Even today the canals must be attended to. The flowering of the Plain of Sharon is the success of Israel's other war. The struggle against drought and sand is a battle which knows no political solution.

Our visit to Ashdod, Ashkelon and Yad Mordechai impress us with all the changes Israel has gone through. In Ashkelon are the ruins of an ancient Philistine city. The Philistines occupied this area in the Twelfth Century B.C.E. Here in Ashkelon are Greek statues, Roman sarcophoguses and Crusader battlements. Many of the statues have been defaced, evidence of Arab rule and the

Arab injunction against the depiction of human faces.

The historical depth of Israel is always present. Not only in the earth but also in the legends and in the people of the country. Outside of Tel-Aviv we see a primitive Bedouin Clan grazing their goats; far in the distance is the dim outline of a Nuclear Reactor.

We visit Ashdod, another ancient Philistine city. In 1962 there was only sand here. Now it has a population of 65,000, a thriving port and industry, and an Absorption Center. These are the stories the Israelis love to tell. The greening of the desert, the building up of towns and cities, and the absorbing of immigrants — this has been the direction of Israel's growth. And despite the manifold problems Israel faces, this growth continues.

The Kibbutz Yad Mordechai is a community which speaks of past sorrows. It was named in memory of Mordechai Anilewitz, leader of the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto. Take a look at I.G.C.M.'s "Ghetto Uprising" medal. On the obverse you will see the figure of a man holding a grenade, against the background of a crumbling brick wall. This portrait was inspired by a statue of Anilewitz which stands in the Kibbutz. On the reverse is the eternal light (*Ner Tamid*).

*Continued on page 32*



*On the battlefield hilltop at Kibbutz Yad Mordechai.*

Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

PROCLAIMED IN 1961, THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NOW INCORPORATED, IS AN AFFILIATED CLUB LOCATED IN NEW YORK CITY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE DAILY MEETINGS OF A.D. 1961, WHICH IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION, THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION AND ORGANIZATION OF SCHOLARLY AND HONORABLE ISRAELIC COINS, MEDALS, AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, NOW CELEBRATING ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, IS A VOLUME AND HISTORY AGAINST THE HONORABLE CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL. THIS YEAR 1961 CELEBRATES THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

HERE THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM D. BEAME, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FIRST OF APRIL, IN 1961, AS

"AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION WEEK."

IN NEW YORK CITY, AND HEREBY CELEBRATE THE STATE OF ISRAEL OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ABRAHAM D. BEAME, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, HAVE SIGNED AND CHURSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE OFFICIAL.

Abraham D. Beame  
MAYOR OF NEW YORK



Morris Bram (l.) and Mayor Beame.

## MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY PROCLAIMS

New York, N.Y. — For the first time in New York City history, a numismatic week was proclaimed by the Mayor, a special tribute to the American Israel Numismatic Association which has brought to the city its annual convention for the past five years, noted Morris Bram, president of A.I.N.A.

A special City Hall ceremony attended by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bram,

his administrative aide, Mrs. Ann Friedner, plus Board of Director members A.H. Kagan, Nat Sobel and George Gilbert was held in the days preceding the Fifth Annual Convention of A.I.N.A.

The Mayor, the Honorable Abraham D. Beame was honored for his service to the community by presentation to him of



L. to r.: Mr. & Mrs. Morris Bram; Mayor A. D. Beame; Nat Sobel; Ann Friedner. Back row: G. Gilbert, A. H. Kagan.

## 'AINA WEEK' FOR FIFTH CONVENTION

the Operation Jonathan medal by A.I.N.A. The medal was issued recently by the Israel Government Coins and Medal Corporation to commemorate the freeing of hostages at the Entebbe Airport, Uganda on July 4, 1976.

The proclamation of "American Israel Numismatic Association Week" in New York from April 25-May 1, 1977 read, in part:

"The American Israel Numismatic Association, now celebrating its tenth anniversary, is a welcome and worthy addition to the many cultural and professional ties that bind together the State of Israel and the City of New York."

The proclamation was on display at the Greater New York Coin Convention in late April and will be on permanent view at the offices of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

# ISRAEL'S ODDBALL COIN

by D. Bernard Hoenig

Although possessing some of the most unusual features of any Israeli coin, the 250 Prutah Silver has nevertheless been begging for collectors in the two and a half decades since its issue. Minted in 1951 and 1952 under the authority of the Ministry of Finance, the 32.2mm coin is an adaptation of the silver Quarter-Shekel of the War of the Jews against Rome (66-70 C.E.), depicting on its obverse three ears of corn above the word "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic.

It is almost identical to the 250 Prutah trade coin which was first issued in 1950 and shares its designs, size, beaded rim and reeded edge. However, its metallic composition consists of 50% silver instead of copper and nickel and it weighs a fraction more than the trade coin.

## An Non-Hebrew Mintmark

What mainly distinguishes the 250 Prutah Silver from its cupronickel counterpart is its most unusual mintmark: the capital letter "H" on its reverse, directly below the link joining two olive branches. Representing "Heaton's Mill", better known as *The Mint Birmingham Ltd. of England*, which minted the coin, this strange inscription is the only non-Hebrew mintmark ever to appear on any Israeli coin. Israel's other mintmarks are the "mem" symbolizing "M'yuchad" (special) on all proof commemoratives, "kof" appearing on the 1969 Shalom commemorative and representing the *Kretschmer Mint* in Jerusalem, and the Star of David found on some of the recent B.U. commemoratives and trade coin Agora sets.



Photo by Dan I. Hoenig

Why an English letter mintmark should adorn an early Israeli coin that otherwise bears only Hebrew writing remains an unexplained mystery. The Bank of Israel, in response to a letter from this writer for clarification suggested that the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation would have the answer. The IGCAM, in turn, directed us to the Ministry of Finance which promptly referred us back to the IGCAM. A letter to the *Mint Birmingham Ltd.* in England has gone unanswered.

Furthering the status of the 250 Prutah Silver as the "Prodigal Prutah" is the fact that it is a classless coin, being neither commemorative nor trade currency. Intended specifically as a souvenir item for tourists and numismatists, the coin has an extremely low two year mintage of 44,125 compared to the cupronickel 250 Prutah with more than 2,000,000 issued.

Nor can it be classified as a special purpose commemorative as suggested for its big brother, the 500 Prutah Silver (see *The Shekel*, Vol. IX, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1976). That coin has no trade coin counterpart and maintains its own unique individuality of design, size and metallic composition. As with most of the Prutah coinage, the 250 Prutah Silver is backdated to 1949 although it was not minted until 1951.

The 250 Prutah Silver is one of the true oddities of Israeli numismatics. Besides having great investment potential, there is no doubt that it will one day be a rare numismatic item, a desired key coin on every collector's list.

# The ALEPH BETH Page

## ... Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



*Q. I know what the "mem" on Israel's commemoratives are placed on the coins to distinguish between the regular and the proof issues. What is the significance of the "kof" that appears on some of the "Shalom" 1969 Independence Day coins? E.H., Teaneck, N.J.*

A. In 1959, the San Francisco Mint (yes, the U.S. San Francisco mint) struck 40,000 regular and 20,000 proof commemorative "Shalom" coins. The Israel Government which had a successful minting of the Victory Proof coins of 1967 again awarded a minting contract to S. Kretschmer & Sons of Jerusalem. Kretschmer struck 20,000 pieces which were marked with a "kof" for Kretschmer. On this (the so-called Jerusalem strike) the "kof" appears under the helmet-branch to the right as opposed to the position of the "mem" on the San Francisco proof coins where it is to the right of the helmet. In case that you are worried about mintage figures where dies are in a private mint, let it suffice to state that the security was provided by the Israel Government.



*Q. I saw a coin whose envelope stated that it was struck at La Zecca. I cannot find this city listed anywhere. Can you help? T.J., Topeka, Kansas.*

A. La Zecca is not a city. It's the name of the government mint in Rome. You must have seen the 1964 "Museum" or the 1965 "Knesset". Both of these issues were struck there.

*Q. On the night before the AINA convention there was an auction sale held by NASCA at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City. The Marjorie Rapoport Collection was rather complete and diversified. Should the Kagan Book prices be changed to conform with the prices realized at this sale? (Asked by an attendee to Arnold Kagan and your columnist at the sale.)*

A. One robin does not a spring make; one swallow does not a summer make; and one auction sale does not fix prices of a coin. The field of Israel Numismatics is vast and selective. At a sale like this one can pinpoint the particular interests of the bidders.

For example, if the collecting interests of the group lean to presentation medals, the prices of these may skyrocket because only one person may buy a given lot and three bidders develop lockjaw in their bidding arm. Conversely, if, as in this sale there are offered 100 Degania Investor pieces in five lots, one can expect the price of the Degania pieces to sell below the fair value of a single piece. Not everybody (dealers included) is willing to bid on 40 pieces (Lot 13) of the same denomination.

In the series of AINA numismatics, an Israeli who came directly to the sale from the airport, wanted the 1975 AINA tour medal and bid \$1050 for it. A few lots later, the rare 1976 AINA American Bicentennial Medal set in the embossed case containing the bronze and the type 1 silver (of which there were struck 500 pieces) and exists only in the number-matched sets was knocked down to the book for \$30 only because the floor bidders did not want to own a duplicate set or had no interest in it.

The auctioneer was looking for an opening bid of \$1 for a 1963 1 Agora

*Continued on page 32*



## THE LARGEST ISRAEL COIN DISPLAY KAGAN-MAREMBA ISRAEL COIN COLLECTION TO AN AMAZED AND THRILLED CROWD

The first and largest display in history of the unexampled Kagan-Maremba collection of Israel's coins and medals was the featured exhibit at the Greater New York Coin Convention in late April, announced Nat Sobel, chairman of the Exhibits Committee.

The famed Kagan-Maremba Collection of Israel numismatic material is over 160-feet long, displayed in specially designed panels, each dramatically representing a single page in the authoritative A.H. Kagan reference work, *Israel's Money and Medals*. Actual coins, medals, paper money and other numismatic materials are positioned in many of the displays where the photographs appear in the book's pages.

The Kagan work is the standard collector reference which was assembled and edited by Sylvia Haffner, longtime numismatic expert on the coinage of Israel. The panels, each nearly two-feet wide, were assembled in groups, each representing a chapter in the book. For the first time in history,

all panels were thus displayed as a group creating the most complete presentation of a single country's coinage in known numismatic show history.

The exhibit area immediately adjacent to the Bourse required an area close in size to a large theatre lobby. Display groups covered such themes as Israel's coins; commemorative coins; medals; banknotes; tokens and other topics in its own cluster.

The total collection, stated knowledgeable experts in the field, is thought to be the world's most complete collection of Israel-related numismatics, including even such rarities as Israel's rarest set, Types I, II and III of the eight-grain 1-agora coin. Assembling the collection was a six year task, requiring the cooperation of such specialists in Israel's numismatic offerings as the leaders of the numismatic world in three countries, with some of the most unique items acquired at auctions in the past three years.



# SPLAY IN THE WHOLE WORLD! LECTION SHOWN IN ITS ENTIRETY CONVENTION AUDIENCE AT GNYCC

## Experts Aided Assembly

Experts Sylvia Haffner, author of the definitive works on the numismatics of contemporary Israel; dealer specialists as J.J. Van Grover; Nielsen-Porter, Inc; Carl and William Rosenblum and Mort Zerder were commissioned to seek select examples in the U.S. and abroad. Aubrey Joffrey, Abraham Birnbaum and Edmond Obadiah of Tel Aviv were of great help in locating material in private collections in Israel.

Identification and confirmation of especially rare items was with the aid of the guidance and expert knowledge of Y. Avni, I. Zedaka and Y. Noye of the IGCAM. Bank of Israel experts A. Peled and Shmuel Aviezer were Jerusalem consultants for the search which was undertaken in 1970 and completed in 1976.

The vast collection is known as the Kagan-Maremba Collection, reflecting the joint ownership of the total presentation by A.H. Kagan and the Maremba Group, New York, New Jersey and

California members of the Kagan, Katz and Youner families, primarily the sons, daughters and grandchildren of the A.H. Kagan family of Long Island, New York.

Mr. Kagan, a numismatist who conceived the project as a family contribution to the numismatic history of contemporary Israel is a wellknown New York area builder and financier. He is especially known to all Israelis as the builder of the aerial tramway which has made it possible for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$ -million people a year to safely visit the historic heights of Massada. This mountaintop fortress of Herod overlooking the Dead Sea south of Jerusalem was the scene of the last stand of the Jews in the revolt in 70CE. They elected to commit suicide rather than to yield to slavery under the Roman conquerors.

## Long Range Display Circulation

Plans for circulation of the display have been initiated to bring sections or

all of the total displays to audiences in both Israel and America. The total collection has been made a cornerstone of the education and cultural display program of AINA. Many of the panels will be the basis for a series of slide lectures which will be presented to I.N.S. clubs, public audiences and to other numismatic groups.

Each panel is 19 x 24-inches, set on a stand for two-side viewing so that the display visitor may see both the obverse and reverse of any coin. The panels are enclosed and protected in impervious plastic housings. With shipping trunks, the total display weighs two tons.

Tel Aviv numismatists will ultimately see all or part of the collection in a showing to be scheduled for the Kadman Numismatic Museum, a modern institution in the suburbs of Israel's largest city.

#### A.N.A. Display is Possible

An early display in the United States is under consideration at the forthcoming convention of the American Numismatic Association in Houston, Texas. Applications has also been made by the Judah L. Magnes Museum of California. A committee made up of members of the Board of Directors of the American Israel Numismatic Association and other specialists in Israel's



*Bram, Avni and Kagan at GNYCC display.*

48 of the panels have been set into furniture-like cabinets, each about the size of a large television set rotatable on concealed "lazy susan" bases.

An early display of the Kagan-Maremba Israel Collection has been projected for the Israel Museum in Jerusalem where a special room would be allocated for a two-month or longer exhibit. Even in Israel such a display will be unique since the largest total collection in that country has never been shown in its entirety. Its owner is the Bank of Israel which is active in exhibiting choice sections of its comprehensive ancient and modern coin collection.

numismatics will set up a showings schedule.

The first showing of the total collection in New York was set up under the direction of A.H. Kagan; Morris Bram, president of AINA and members of the Exhibits Committee of GNYCC.

The plaques and shipping containers were designed by Capitol Plastics of Massillon, Ohio who was awarded a special award at the convention's award banquet.

For information regarding the exhibit, the Kagan-Maremba Collection will receive mail at P.O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N.Y. 11354.

# COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



## JUDAEA CAPTA COINS: EARLY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

At the recent AINA Show in New York, I was asked a good question about the Judaea Capta coins.

*"Why did the giant Rome go to all the trouble to issue coins to commemorate victory over the Jewish nation, which was so small?"*

The person asking the question had just had a quick look at the Mendelssohn prizewinning exhibit, containing a large number of types of Judaea Capta coins.

He bolstered his question by asking, furthermore, why the Romans issued so many different types and denominations of Judaea Capta coins.

To be sure there are many answers to this question. I would imagine that one could, indeed, write a book on this subject, and perhaps someday someone will.

First and foremost is the plain fact that although Judaea was a small nation, Rome's victory in 70 C.E. was not an easy one.

The event of "Judaea Capta" under Vespasian and Titus, observes H. St. J. Hart, is the center of universal attention. *"All the world must know and meditate the destruction of that rebellious and warlike nation, the Jews, and that a long and difficult war, with disturbing possibilities of complications throughout the empire is over."*

This Roman victory—the victory of Vespasian and his son Titus—must be taken in another context. It was, after all, just at this time that Vespasian became emperor, after the alarming "year of four emperors"—Galba, Otho, Vitellius, and, finally, Vespasian himself.

Vespasian was determined to establish a new dynasty, which he did. And what better way to let the world know of his strength, wisdom, and good judgement, than to proclaim his victories publicly.



Of course Vespasian could proclaim his victory in the triumphal celebration, and by building a victory arch, or two. But these were stationary items or events—the people had to come to observe them. But what was really needed was a form of mass communication to spread the word widely and often. The perfect vehicle for this was the coin of the realm, since coins were handled and examined many thousands of times each day.

M.P. Charlesworth observes that *"This use of coinage, with its legends and pictures, gave emperors, and the city mints that echoed Roman policy, a most potent instrument in the ancient world for fashioning opinion and influencing men's views . . ."*

Historian Michael Grant says that Roman coinage *"served a propaganda purpose far greater than has any other national coinage before or since."*

The propaganda nature of this series of coins can clearly be seen in the continuation of the Judaea capta series from Vespasian to his son Titus.

The third of the Flavian emperors, Domitian, brother of Titus, did not, so far as we know continue the Judaea Capta series. The perfectly good reason for this is, mainly, that there was no love lost between the two brothers, and Domitian probably did not want to further glorify his brother's name—even though he was dead.

Some believe that Domitian did, indeed, issue a series of Judaea Capta coins, especially those with the legend

*Continued on page 31*

## BRAM REPORTS ON HOLYLAND EXPO SUCCESS

Returning from a weekend visit to California and participation in the Holyland Expo '77 held in North Hollywood under the joint sponsorship of the INS of San Gabriel Valley, the INS of San Fernando Valley and the INS of Los Angeles, Mr. Morris Bram reported to the local clubs and numismatic leaders in the East of the exciting turnout and success of the Holyland Expo event.

He paid tribute to the splendid organizing of the committees which are the backbone of such operations.

*General Chairman - Jerry Yahalom  
Bourse - Murray Singer  
Banquet - Anita Drapkin  
Finance - Babe Baker  
Publicity - Donna Sims  
Ticket Promotion - Donna Sims  
Registration - Sally Marx  
Security - Dr. Herbert Drapkin  
Souvenirs - Lester Dubin  
Secretary - Sarah Breslow  
Judging and Exhibits - J.W. McInnis  
Hospitality - Jackie Yahalom,  
Anita Drapkin and Bernice Roth  
Door Prize Collection - Cliff Roth*

The banquet concluded the daylong festivities and activities.



*Sylvia Haffner, one of the world's most outstanding experts on Israel's money and medals addresses the Educational Forum at the Holy Land Expo (photo top left); Morris Bram, president of AINA, brings news of the recent Fifth Annual Convention of AINA to the California audience (photo top right); Registration Table, l. to r.: J. H. McInnis, Dave Gottleib; Joe Dombrowski; Lillian Allfie; Nate Bromberg; James Evergreen; and Esther Taller (photo bottom left); one of the trophy's was awarded by J. H. McInnis to Nat Simms, with Morris Bram congratulating from the left (photo bottom right).*

# NINETEENTH CENTURY MEDALS OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS

By Eli Semmelman, Haifa



## BENJAMIN DISRAELI (1804-1881)

Benjamin Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield), British statesman and writer was born in 1804 and died in 1881. His father, Isaac Disraeli converted Benjamin to Christianity while himself remaining a Jew.

Benjamin Disraeli was believed to be proud of his Jewish origins throughout his career. He studied law and entered political life, elected as a Conservative member of Parliament. After being appointed to different assignments, he finally realized his goal: Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1874 during the rule of Queen Victoria.

During his ministry, many colonies were occupied and annexed to the British Empire. With the help of money from the House of Rothschild, he procured shares of the Suez Canal corporation. His political efforts included extensive social reforms and from the laws he helped to institute, many British citizens were granted the right to vote.

During his political career, he wrote extensively, including a few books on Jewish subjects such as *David Elro'i*. Disraeli and a few other converts never took their new faith seriously. In the *Encyclopedia Judaica* he is cited as a Jew; medal collectors seek his portrait on a medal as an addition to a Jewish leaders collection.

This medal, 32mm, is in bronze. There is no minter's signature.



## PROF. THEODOR GOMPERZ (1832-1912)

Professor Theodor Gomperz was born in Bruno (Bohemia) in 1832 and died in Baden, near Vienna in 1912.

He was a classical philosopher and historian of ancient philosophies, teaching at the University of Vienna from 1813. He published his extensive research on ancient literature and culture and is known till today for his three-volume work, *Greek Thinkers*, works dating from 1896 to 1909. This scholarly achievement presents the history of Greek philosophy from its beginnings till after Aristotle. It includes a general history of science and the development of the ancient Greek culture. This important work has been translated into many languages and it is still a fundamental work in its field though the author has been criticized for his one-sidedness of judgment which derives from his radical empiric positist position.

Gomperz was active in politics and public affairs. He was nominated a member of the Austrian Parliament and served there as a Liberal member. In Jewish matters he took an extreme assimilative attitude and he sharply opposed both Dr. Herzl and Zionism.

The medal, produced at A. Scharff, is in white metal, 45mm.



## CHANA ROBINAH ACTRESS IN ISRAEL

Chana Robinah was born in 1892 in White Russia.

Mrs. Robinah started her career as actress in the "Hebrew" which was founded by the actor and producer Zemach.

In 1917 she joined the "Habimah" in Moscow to become one of their main actors. She became famous for the genius in her acting technique. She lived in Israel from 1928 on.

The medal is of bronze, 59 mm, was issued by the Habimah National Theater.

## GUSTAV HOLLÄENDER (1855-1915)



Gustav Hollaender, violinist, music teacher and composer was born on December 15, 1855 in Lobschutz, Silesia, Germany.

As a talented child, he gave concerts on the violin, studying at Liepzig and later as a pupil of Joachim in Berlin. In 1874 he received the post of Chamber Musician at the Court Orchestra. His chamber music concerts were with Scharwenka and Grunfeld in Berlin.

Later he settled in Cologne and from 1895 on, he was a Director of the Sternchem Conservatory in Berlin. He traveled widely and gave concerts abroad. He discovered forgotten music works and himself played the violin parts of works he discovered.

He died on December 4, 1915.

The medal is 42mm, in white metal, of unknown designer and mint. It was

issued by the Teacher Collegium of the Sternchem Conservatory to commemorate his 50th birthday. I fear that the good teachers of the Collegium of the Conservatory made a grievous error: They issued the medal on his 45th birthday in 1900. He was actually 50 years old in 1905, having been born in 1855 (*not in 1850 as inscribed on the medal*).

His brother, Victor, was born in 1866; also in Lobschutz. He too was a musician, a pianist and the composer of operettas. Following studies in Berlin, he taught in Hamburg, Budapest, Marienbad and later in London and the U.S. He died in Hollywood, California on October 24, 1940.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to the *Encyclopedia Judaica* (in German) and *Everyman's Dictionary of Music* by Eric Blom for the information in this article.

## ISRAEL'S MUSEUMS as seen by a syngraphist.

By FRANZ FRANKL

The Kadman Numismatic Museum, one of the few in the world specializing in Numismatics and Syngraphics, was the highpoint of AINA's recent Tel-Aviv visit. Mr. Arie Kindler, director, one of the earliest collectors of ancients in Israel gave an outstanding slideshow. Starting with a Pallas Athena, the first known coin with a head and a coh of corn, owl on reverse, Dr. Kindler explained with about 12 slides the development of coins and symbols. With a few words Dr. Kindler made us understand why it was possible for certain coins of Jewish rulers to show the graven image.

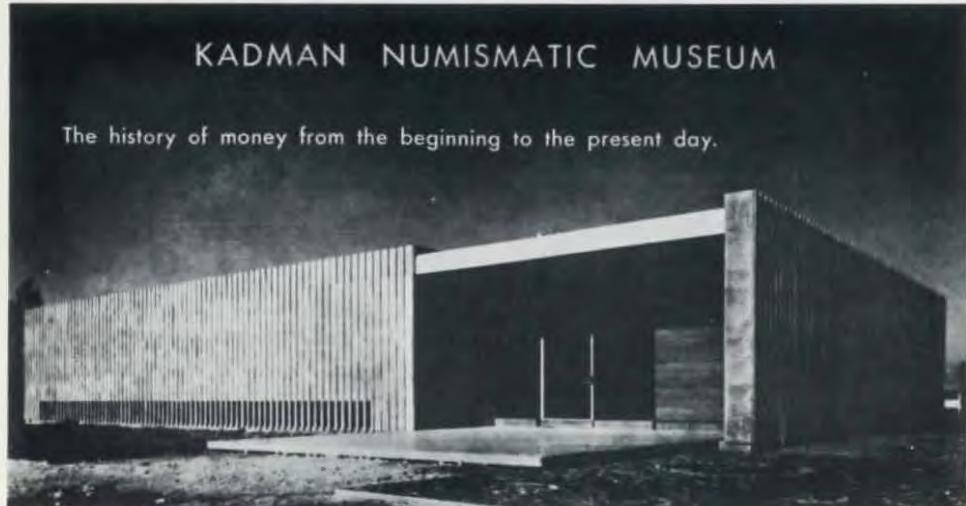
When Dr. Kindler ended his presentation, after about 15 minutes, I had just one regret: Not to be some 25 years younger to collect this marvelous series.

On the ground floor exhibition room, my eyes were transfixed on just one exhibit—the *Anglo Palestine Bank Emergency Scrips* of May 16, 1948.

Working on a study of Israel's First Currency, I discussed with Mr. Kindler the 1948 Specimens. Mr. Kindler showed the set to me; it was punchholed. All Israel catalogues since S. Haffner illustrate this set *without* punchholes. The pictures were taken either from the Kadman Museum set or the one in the collection of the Bank Leumi Le-Israel. A short taxiride took me to the headquarters of the Bank. Mr. Zeev Birnbaum who over the years has been so helpful to my studies, showed me the syngraphic exhibit of the Bank. Simply breathtaking: *Specimen Set 1948*, punchholed; *Emergency Scrips* of May 16, 1948;

### KADMAN NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

The history of money from the beginning to the present day.



Kadman Museum in Tel-Aviv suburb.

Jewish Colonial Trust Co., certificate; and the RAREST of the RAREST. *Emergency Cheque* of August 27, 1914.

How different they all look from illustrations. There are but four known sets of the *Emergency Scrips* of May 16, 1948—and I had the good fortune to inspect two within one hour. Besides the two sets mentioned, there is one set in the United States. The fourth set was offered to me in Tel-Aviv.

The way Dr. Arie Ben-Eli set up the exhibits in the National Maritime Museum, Haifa, shows the pride and dedication of the founder. Coins relating to the sea, especially City coins, are abundant in the Museum's collection. Set on raised holders in clear plastic, they make an extraordinary display. Walking along with my dear friend Stan Yulish we were treated to an unexpected sight: a shard of clay from ancient times inscribed with a list of goods. One of the earliest Bills of Lading!

### At Megiddo

The Museum in Megiddo is not a museum in the true sense of the word. Located in the main building, originally headquarters of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, it contains maps, photographs, etc. It is an introduction for the ascent of the hill. For health reasons, I could not go up and took a long time to look at the exhibits of the Museum. And there it was "Belonging to Shema, servant of Jeroboam" a reproduction only of the jasper lion seal—the Reverse of BN—17, the Five Pound Note 1958. The seal was found by the German Templar Dr. Schumacher in 1904 at the first excavation of Megiddo. It is a pity that our catalogues do not mention where the seal was found.

Our last stop was Jerusalem, the city that is a museum in itself. The collector of PCB notes is surrounded by the buildings depicted on the notes: Migdal David with the Citadel—Omar Mosque. Visiting Bethlehem, we stopped at Rachel's Tomb. The same goes for collectors of Israel's latest currency beginning with BN—25: Montefiore's Windmill—Knesset—Hadassa—Mount Herzl—and

last but not least, the walls of the Old City. All this is all around you and gives you the feeling of living with them.

Finally we went to the famous Israel Museum, a complex of buildings and outdoor exhibits built on the site of a hill. A week would not be enough time to walk through it and see it all. Ya'akov Meshorer, curator of the Bronfman Biblical and Archaeological Museum, took all 96 of us to the lowest level of the main building where the antique Judaic coins, etc. are exhibited.

Dr. Meshorer explained how through coins an ancient building can be identified; he also showed us a small part of a recently unearthed treasure of several thousand coins.

On leaving we had to return to the upper level. All of a sudden Stan and I stopped and stared in disbelief and admiration. Mounted on a wall was the Reverse of BN—20 . . . the colours have to be seen to be believed. The reddish-brown almost pinkish glittering of the Mosaic was fascinating. Well, the Reverse of BN—20 does not show the actual mosaic, but ". . . according to . ." On the original mosaic the *shofar* and *ethrog* are not arranged symmetrically to both sides of the Menorah; and the *lulav* looked to me like the cob of corn Dr. Kindler had pointed out to us on the Pallas Athena coin. A closer look at the description informed us that this was not the Mosaic from Nirim in the Negev, but from Beit She'an on the Eastern end of the Emek Israel. Both synagogues were built in the 5th century.

Early next morning our tour was leaving for the U.S. Breakfast was served in the Coffee Shop of the King David Hotel with its wonderful panoramic view of the old city. It was the breaking of dawn. The first rays of the sun began slowly to outline the silhouettes of the old city. The light!! The colors!! The sky!! The old city did not bid us farewell—*Yerusholayim Hakedosh* invited us to come again.

# HOW A SECONDARY USE OF COINS COMMEMORATES STAGES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE REALIZATION OF ZIONISM

by Arie Kindler

In the course of years, the Kadman Numismatic Museum has acquired three coins of special interest for the history of the Jewish population in Eretz Israel during the years 1917 to 1947.

The common denominator of these three coins lies in the fact that a secondary use has been made of them, turning each of them into souvenirs or propaganda items of outstanding character. The technic applied to convert these coins into souvenirs or items of political propaganda was erasure of the design of one side of the coin and to use the new smooth field for the engraving of the wanted design.

## 1. A coin to commemorate the conquest of Rishon LeZion by the British army.

This is a Turkish silver coin of the 2 piaster denomination issued by the Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II during the 29th year of his reign, i. e. in the year 1905. From the original coin only the obverse with the depiction of the "tughra", the traditional monogram of the name and title of the Sultan remained intact. Under the "tughra", the numeral 29 which indicates the 29th year of reign of the Sultan can be seen. The other side, in this case the reverse of the coin has been erased and engraved with the following legend in three registers: CONQUEST / OF RISHON / 15/11/1917. A loop has been welded to the coin to enable it to be attached to a chain.

The days of World War I were a critical period for the Jewish population in Eretz Israel. At the beginning of 1917 the Jewish inhabitants of Tel-Aviv were expelled and the Kaimakam of Jaffa, the Turkish district governor, prohibited the use of all paper bills and private cheques that had been issued by local Jewish authorities primarily to overcome the difficulties that arose in trade from the lack of small change.

Our coin was to perpetuate the event of the conquest of Rishon LeZion by the British army in November 1917. Nobody knows today who prepared the coin. Was it a Jewish settler from Rishon LeZion or perhaps a Jewish or non-Jewish soldier of the British unit that conquered Rishon LeZion?

The conquest of Rishon LeZion took place only a short time after the publication of the *Balfour Declaration* on November 2nd, 1917. The Jewish settlers of Rishon LeZion heard of it only after the conquest of the place by the British. The British army advanced from Beer Sheba northwards. In their retreat the Turks used Rishon LeZion as a base of operations until the eve of the British occupation.

## 2. A propaganda coin of the "Etzel".

This is a one Mil copper coin of the British Mandate in Palestine. Its exact date of issue cannot be determined because the obverse bearing that date was erased. It may, however, be assumed



A Turkish Silver Coin and the Conquest of Rishon LeZion



A British Mandate coin becomes an Irgun struggle symbol.

that the coin was issued during the forties, probably in 1946 as the example given here shows.

This is the second specimen known to the author. On our specimen the obverse has probably been erased purposely because it carried the unpopular legend "Palestine" and there remained only the reverse on which an olive spray is depicted with the denomination given in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

A similar specimen has been published by A. Berman in the *Alon*, the Hebrew Quarterly of the Israel Numismatic Society (Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 36-37). On that specimen the reverse has been erased which fortunately enables us to read on the obverse the date of issue of the coin: 1942.

The identicity of the emblem on both specimens and the fact that the other side of these coins is somewhat flattened leads to the conclusion that a kind of die was used to produce these little political propaganda items. The die, however, was produced in such a manner as to give an impression of engraving.

The design on the erased side is the emblem of the Etzel (*Irgun Zevai Leumi*), the rightist military underground movement then led by Menahem Begin. This emblem shows an outline of the map of the original Palestine as allotted to the British by the League of Nations after World War I. It then consisted of what became later on the Palestine of the West bank of the river Jordan and the kingdom of Transjordan. Over this map a human arm holding a rifle with fixed bayonet is diagonally placed.

Here the usually accompanying legend "Only so" is missing. The emblem was in those years the symbol of the struggle of the rightist underground movement prior to the independence of the State of Israel.

### 3. A coin commemorating the British internment camps in Cyprus.

This coin was prepared from a cupronickel  $\frac{1}{2}$  piaster which was issued for Cyprus in 1938 and on which the head of King George VI is depicted.

The erased reverse was engraved by an apparently gifted engraver who indicated in a few lines an internment camp with two tents, a watchtower, a barbed wire fence and cloud and sun in the sky. Above the fence the legend "Cyprus" is written in Hebrew.

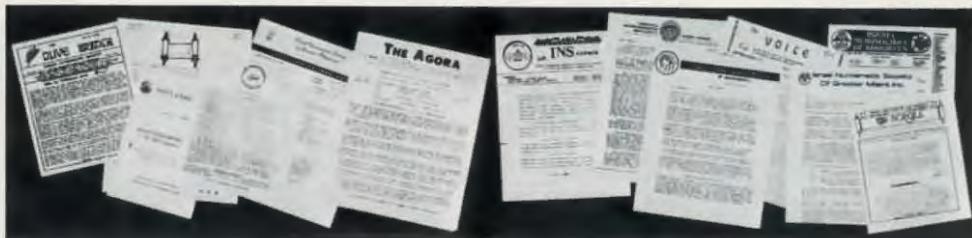
In 1946 the British prepared extensive internment camps for the containment of Jewish refugees from Europe seeking to reach Palestine. By August 12th, 1946, the first 1300 refugees were moved to these camps via Haifa. These were refugees who had survived the Holocaust and who sought shelter in Palestine. At the beginning, these refugees were illegal immigrants organised by the Hagana and the Etzel. They were concentrated in internment camps in Palestine, but finally the British intercepted the ships which carried the thousands of refugees on the high sea to send them directly to the camps in Cyprus.

An outstanding example were the two ships "Kibbutz Galuyoth" (*Pan York*) and "Atzmauth" (*Pan Crescent*) which

*Continued on page 31*



A Cyprus internment camp memento from a Cyprus coin.



## CLUB NEWS FROM CLUB NEWSLETTERS

### JERSEY-PENNA. IN JOINT MEETING OF INS GROUPS

A joint meeting of the INS of South Jersey with the INS of Pennsylvania was held recently with speakers N.H. Hacohen, representing the IGCAM and Mordechai Zvi, numismatic editor of *Ha'aretz*. The groups met in Haddon Hall, New Jersey. A discussion of Palestine Mandate coinage led by Bill Lansburg was planned for the event.

The first anniversary meeting of the Jerseyites was a festive affair with President Ed Adleman welcoming new members and honoring the new treasurer Robin Sue Lansburg and thanking the past treasurer Sue Baelen, before introducing Rabbi Lewis. Rabbi Lewis was a spellbinder, noted the group's newsletter, who could spin yarns of ancient kings and the meaning of symbols on ancient and modern coins.

Passover refreshments at the meeting included wine, matzos, jello molds, gefilte fish "and much, much more".

### CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP LEARNS OF CONVENTION SPECIAL EVENTS

In a special newsletter article written by Past President David Paszamant and Editor George Evers, members of the INS of Central Jersey learned of events at the President's Meeting at the AINA Convention and had ideas presented on future exhibits by juniors in the Convention competition.

At the April meeting, outgoing president Allan Greenberg chaired his final meeting on the fourth anniversary of the N.J. group. Members at the meeting had the excitement of being shown a rare 100-pound Palestine Currency Board note, priced at \$25,000 by its owner, Carl Rosenblum. Only four are known to exist.

### LONG ISLANDERS CHEER SECOND TROPHY WIN

With special memos from their president Morty Zerder and cheered on by the *Special Convention Report* (readied by Max Vlotkoffsky who wants *Shekel* readers to know that he has made five trips to Israel, that his name has a k not shown on page nine of the March-April issue, and that he was the first and original secretary and treasurer of AINA) members of the INS of Long Island (N.Y.) learned that they now had two awards on the special AINA Club Trophy. It is awarded to the *Best Club Exhibit* at the Annual Convention. *One more Trophy Award and the Cup is theirs to keep!*

President Morty Zerder revealed some of the magic for their past victories; he immediately reappointed the man he credited with pulling the all-club exhibit together (Dr. Mannie Rubin) to plan at once NEXT YEAR'S EXHIBIT.

### COIN WORLD TELLS HOW INS OF TEXAS AIDS ISRAEL HOSPITAL

Two fund raising projects by the INS of Texas were described in a special story in *Coin World* (May 25, 1977). Both were planned to raise funds to benefit the Safed General Hospital in Safed, Israel.

A donation auction was planned for late May. A PNC (philatelic-numismatic cover) commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the State of Israel incorporates an uncirculated 1973 (5733) 25-agorot coin and the Israel 25th Anniversary Declaration of Independence one-lirot stamp with cancellation in Jerusalem on May 14, 1973, the 25th anniversary date.

Collectors may acquire the PNC for a \$4 donation to the INS of Texas (P.O. Box 35673, Houston, Texas 77035).

## ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND AIDED BY GREATER MIAMI AUCTION

An auction for the benefit of the *Israel Emergency Fund* was one of the featured activities of the June dinner meeting of the INS of Greater Miami. All items were donated and 100% of the proceeds were turned over to the Fund.

## CONNECTICUT GROUPS SEES MASADA SLIDE SHOW

Slides from the AINA Audio/Visual Library on the topic of Masada were planned for the May meeting of the INS of Connecticut. The April meeting of the group heard Dr. F. Don James, a unique meeting attended jointly by the Israel Philatelic Society and the members of the INS of Connecticut.

## TIDEWATER GROUP HEARS MEDALS TALK

A lecture and slides on the theme, *Jewish Medals of Interest* was presented in mid-May at the INS of Tidewater (Va.). The speaker was Aaron Behrman who used material provided by the AINA Audio/Visual Library.

## CONVENTION EXHIBIT AT CLEVELAND INS MEETING

The award winning exhibit from the Fifth Annual Convention of AINA by Stanley Yulish, *Herzl and the Jewish Bank*, was the featured subject at the May meeting of the INS of Cleveland (Ohio). It has been converted into another of the educational programs within the AINA Audio/Visual Slide Library and this meeting was the first use of the new show.

Nominations were announced for the coming elections with Sanford Brown for President; Milton Shapiro for Vice-President; Leonard Reuven for Secretary; and Sam Richman for Treasurer.

*The Agora*, club bulletin of the group, noted that a new coin of IL 5 value in Israel will start replacing 5-pound notes. The new coin, expected to be in copper-



## MORE CLUB PRESIDENTS: PAST AND PRESENT

In the March-April *Shekel* of this year, a special story paid tribute to past and present presidents of the Israel Numismatic Societies whose dedication to the growth of interest in Israel's numismatics merited special tribute.

We are pleased to add to this roster the following additional club officers:

### FLORIDA

#### INS of Greater Miami

First President: B. J. Rubinstein	Year: 1967
Second: Hyman Sootin	1968-69
Next: Edward Schuman	1970-72
Next: Sidney W. Smith	1973
Next: Sidney L. Olson	1974-77

#### INS of Tampa

First President: Roy Nadler	1975-76
Second: Robert Scott	1976-77

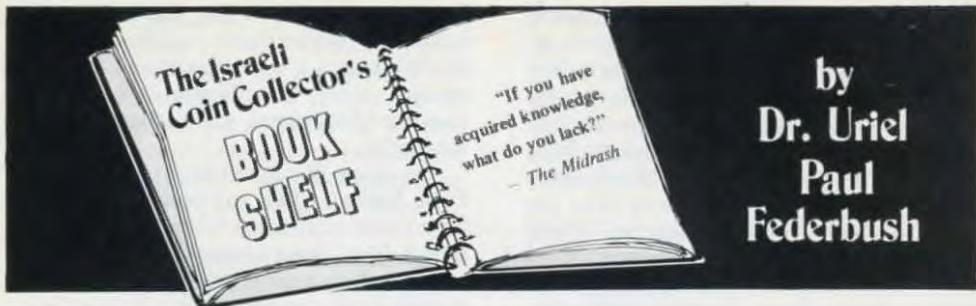
nickel alloy, will be slightly larger than the current one Lira coin. One per cent of the money in circulation is in the form of 5-pound notes; 20 years ago it was 24 per cent.

## MOTHER-SON TEAM TELLS OF AWARD SUCCESS IN NEW YORK

The very proud team of mother Donna Sims (president of the INS of San Gabriel Valley (Calif.) and son, Michael Sims, told of their unique awards victories in the Exhibits Competition at the recent Convention of AINA in New York to guests of their INS meeting planned for June.

*The Olive Branch*, newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley group is seeking a volunteer editor to carry on the work conducted for the past five years by Esther Bromberg.

The group gave up its own planned May meeting so that all could participate in the May 22 Holyland Expo.



by  
Dr. Uriel  
Paul  
Federbush

*The books to be reviewed cover the fascinating area of Jewish Medals. These are most important in illuminating various areas of Jewish history and experience. The ones discussed in the following volumes encompass mainly medals issued before the more recent Israeli items. Nearly all the classic Jewish medals can be found in these editions. Many are significant not only in their historic sense, but are also a joy to behold from the viewpoint of fine medallic art.*

**Aus dem Berliner Jüdischen Museum**  
by Moritz Stern (Berlin: Philo Verlag, 1937). Soft Cover. 54 p.

This is a nicely illustrated catalog—in German—of an exhibition of the Berlin Jewish Museum. It was obviously one of the last important cultural events that German Jewry was allowed to conduct. The Nazi "Kristallnacht" of November 9, 1938—so-named glass from destroyed Jewish synagogues and shops that littered the streets—brought a halt to most organized Jewish activities.

The catalogue includes sections on Palestinian antiquities; ancient Jewish coins; The Medal Collection; Seals; Rings; and Jewish cultural items. The section on ancient Jewish coins is a small one, and is not of real significance. The Medal Collection, however, comprises approximately three quarters of the catalogue. It is most significant as it chronicles one of the most complete lists of Jewish medals assembled to 1937. The items in the collection date from the sixteenth century. Albert Wolf was its donor, and he did the earliest pioneering research in the area.

The presentation and organization of the collection is interesting as well. It is categorized as follows:

- I. Biblical Persons and Occurrences.
- II. Jewish Personalities.
  1. Rabbis
  2. Teachers
  3. Communal Leaders
  4. Intellectuals, Poets, Authors
  5. Physicians
  6. Jurists
  7. Composers
  8. Architects, Painters
  9. Musicians and Singers
10. Actors
11. Philanthropists
12. Politicians
13. Consuls
14. Industrialists and Businessmen
15. Bankers
16. Miscellaneous

- III. Synagogues, Schools.
- IV. Jewish Rituals.
- V. Concerning Jewish History.
- VI. Varia

This will indicate the scope of the collection. Many of the important items are illustrated as well—the only place where they are thus depicted.

**Joodse Penningen In De Nederlanden—Jewish Medals in the Netherlands** by Arthur Polak (Amsterdam: Jacques Schulman, 1958) Soft Cover. 80 p.

This book, published in Holland, is of particular value as it contains summaries translated into English by Forrer which describe the items. The medals relate to the history of the Jews in The Netherlands. Medals from 1550 (Gracia Nasi) to 1956 (Resettlement of the Jews in Great Britain,

by Vincze) are covered. Thus the book transcends its title, and covers events of wider Jewish import. Other medals in this category that are illustrated include the one issued for the cancellation of the edict of expulsion of the Jews of Bohemia in 1745, in which the protest of the Dutch Jews played an important role.

Others depict Dutch persons and events that are important in Jewish history in general such as the noted artists Josef Israels; the San Remo Zionist Conference, and others.

**Osef Feuchtwanger** (The Feuchtwanger Collection) by Yeshayahu Schachar (Jerusalem: Israel Museum, 1971) Soft Cover. 335 p.

This sumptuous catalogue—in Hebrew—describes the exhibits of the fabulous Heinrich Feuchtwanger collection in the Israel Museum. The number of pages it contains give some indication to the size, extent, and importance of the collection. It is subtitled *Jewish Tradition and Art*, which gives another indication to its scope and extent.

The various sections encompass areas such as Jewish Ceremonies; the Jewish home; the Synagogue; The Holidays; and Jerusalem. The section on "Seals" is also of ancillary interest to the medal collector.

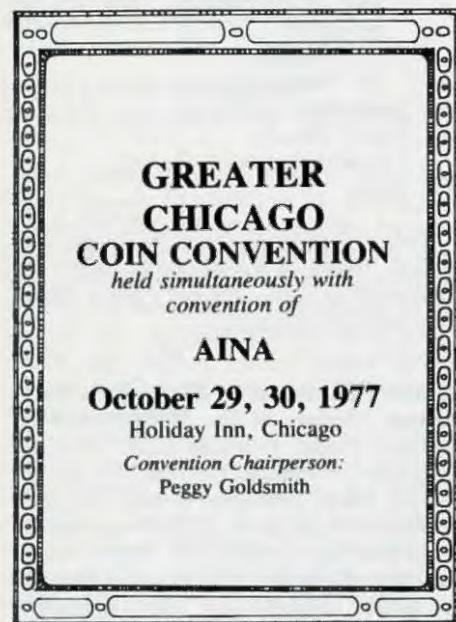
The chapter of primary interest to our readers is entitled *Coins and Medals*. The exhibit covers a wide spectrum including ancient coins. The illustrations are pictured on black pages, giving them particular clarity.

The items illustrated begin with several False Shekels. This is followed by a Zichron Jacob communal token, and a Moses medal from Joachistahl. These are then succeeded by various older German antisemitic items; medals of Jewish emancipation; Synagogues; and the Barre medals of Moses and Aaron. The section closes with depictions of the famous and classic Lord and Lady Montefiore medal by Charles Wiener in 1864, and the Second Zionist Congress medal of 1898 by Beer.

Some other items of interest are found in the section titled *Various*, at the very end of the book. Here are found the elaborate Joachimstahl medal of Alexander of Macedon and the Jewish High Priest; as well as a medal of Kaiser Wilhelm and the *Erlöserkirche* in Jerusalem; ending with some Palestine Templar tokens.

There is an excellent bibliography at the back of the volume, which is most valuable to collectors and researchers.

It is a book to be highly recommended both because of its contents, presentation, and beauty.



### KINDLER (cont.)

carried together 15,000 (!) refugees who did not reach Palestine but instead the internment camps in Cyprus. These camps finally held as many as 52,000 Jewish refugees. They were transferred to Israel only after the declaration of Independence of the State of Israel in May-June 1948.

These coins have to be considered as the personal expressions of single persons who felt that at a certain historical

moment whether active or passive, that they were eye-witnesses. They were gifted enough to prepare a memento in minute engraving. In this manner there were commemorated on the above mentioned coins the coming of the British to Palestine as conquerors and liberators of the Jews from the Turkish yoke on one hand; and very ironically, on the other hand, the two other coins which indicate the struggle of the Jews for the liberation of their homeland from the same British.



Israel's first stamps carry ancient coin motifs suggested by INS founders.

### Coins of Ancient Israel cont.

VICTORIA NAVALIS, the argument being that they referred to Roman naval victories over the Jews during the war. We have quite conclusively proven in a lengthy article—as yet unpublished—that this is not the case. Others have shown that the Palestine issues of Domitian are not of the series.

The Judaea Capta coins under Vespasian and Titus carried various legends, including, IVDAEA, IVDAEA CAPTA, IVDAEA DEVICTA, DE IVDAEAS, and VICTORIA AVGSTVS. The Judaea Capta coins of Roman issue were struck in all denominations for maximum exposure—the gold aureus; the silver denarius; the bronze sestertius, dupondius, as, semis, and quadrans.

In Palestine bronze Judaea Capta coins were issued with the Greek inscription, which read: (*Judaea captive*).

Thus, while the Jewish nation itself in ancient days may have been very small compared to Rome, the Roman victory over the Jews was not an easy one. And, furthermore, it was very much in the Emperor Vespasian's interest to make it appear as if his victory over the Jews was of far greater magnitude than was actually the case.

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS (cont.)

representation on the Board. Under this plan, AINA's computerized membership list will be the basis for creation of a number of Election Districts of roughly equal size, with possibly as many as eight such districts each having local candidates for the one regionally elected director's seat.

If approved, AINA members would vote on two ballots: one for the candidates choosing to run on a national ticket; the other for candidates who seek to compete only with other *local* candidates in *their own district*. The elected Regional Directors would have the seat, vote and Board participation equal to any other Board member.

If this election procedure modification meets legal requirements, it could be initiated starting with the 1978 vote. Within three years (by 1980) the transition would be completed, replacing the present system which tends to favor the reelection of incumbents. At present only their names are known to the many AINA members who are not participants in the INS clubs and who know little of the candidates who seek entry onto the Board though known only in their local numismatic circles.

**BOARD MEETS WITH  
INS PRESIDENTS  
AT AINA CONVENTION**

An early morning session at the New York Sheraton was held with a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and with representatives from fifteen presidents of INS clubs around the country. The annual meeting with INS presidents was started in 1976 and it provides for an annual review of policies and programs.

INS presidents reported on their use of the AINA slide library for educational programs; on the need for advance notice for orders of Israel's coins and medals to assist clubs to get maximum purchases through the clubs to help build the club treasuries and for improved communications between the clubs and the AINA Board.

Among outspoken presidents were Peter Moss (INS of Northern New Jersey) Fred Rogamson (INS of Connecticut) and Donna Sims (INS of San Gabriel Valley, California). Presidents were advised of the planned changes in the By-Laws which aims to assure greater regional representation in future Boards. With the start of Regional Directors, *The Shekel* will publish reports from such directors reflecting activities and policies of concern to each of the regions which will then make up AINA election districts.

The struggle the men and women knew in Warsaw is now known by the kibbutzniks during Israel's War of Independence. Their Kibbutz was on the front lines. They were attacked by the Egyptians and struggled against impossible odds. Their only answer to their enemies and continual heartbreak was a stubborn determination to survive.

After five days of intense fighting which held up the Egyptian Army planning to take Tel Aviv, they finally had to be evacuated. After the '48 war they returned to the Kibbutz. Today, it contains an unusual museum built like a shelter, like the sewers of Warsaw. Here one finds photographs of the Ghetto and Uprising in Warsaw, illegal immigration into Palestine, the clandestine settlement of the Kibbutz, and the battle in the '48 war. This is the story of their lives. A tale of tragedy and of tragedy overcome.

**END OF PART ONE****ALEPH BETH cont.**

with the inverted reverse. I bid it and received the lot. This is no criterion of the value of the coin. It was a freak and it will never happen again in my lifetime. The best example that I can submit, is that a few lots of the 50 Pruta of 1949 with pearl sold for \$17.50 and \$20. This is the second rarest commercial coin of Israel, second only to the small wreath 1954 Utrecht die.

The assembled group appeared to have no interest in varieties of commercial coinage but were bidding on hotel key plates like they were the apex of collecting of Israel numismatics. As an afterthought, two members of AINA's trip last March exchanged a few of these 1949 fifty pruta with pearl pieces with an Israeli dealer for the 1954 fifty pruta with milled edge on an even swap basis even though the latter pieces sell for 50% more. The answer is that the dealers in Israel do not have any of the 1949's which are rarer than the higher priced 1954's.

YOU ARE  
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**AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSN.**



Do you plan to attend the convention  
of the American Numismatic Association

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AUGUST 1977**

Paid-up members are guests of  
AINA at the AINA Breakfast  
Mariott Hotel, Saturday, August 27th, 1977, 9:00 A.M.

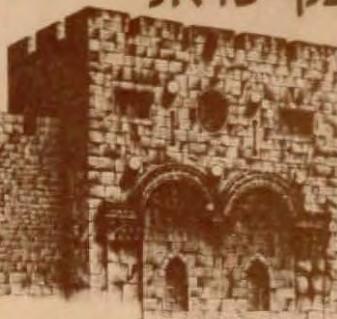
Reservations are requested by Aug. 10, says Chairlady Florence Schuman of Miami, Fla. For reservations and additional information write AINA Breakfast, c/o Florence Schuman, P.O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N.Y. 11365.

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New Israel 500-Pound Notes  
Honor David Ben Gurion

(See story page 3)